

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). Claims 6, 7 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 2, 4, 8-15, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Adams. Claims 3, 5-7 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Adams in view of Kettelson et al.

U.S. Patent No. 3,513,960 to Adams is cited as the main objection to all of the claims, with the exception of claims 3, 5 to 7 and 16. As the Examiner remarks, Fig. 4 (correctly Fig. 3) would disclose a conveying device which consists of different sections 10, 12, the different sections running independently of each other.

This point of view is no correct. For the different sections only one motor unit 28 is provided which drives the different sections via the clutch 48. At the end of the conveying device a load sensing roller 24 is provided which, as soon as the work piece hits the load sensing roller, the motor for the rollers of section 10 is stopped. Simultaneously the rollers of section 12 are stopped when a second work pieces hits the load sensing roller 24' of the second section. If the work pieces is removed from the end of section 10, the clutch engages again and effects a drive of the rollers of section 10. At the same time the rollers of section

12 are driven, and the work piece 2 can be removed from the section 12 o the section 10. As long as the work piece activates the load sensing roller 24 of section 10 the further conveying of the work piece to a previous section is interrupted.

In contrast to the invention the individual sections are not driven independently of each other. The drive of one section always depends on the fact whether there is a work piece located on the previous section or not. In the invention there is the new feature that each section (see claim 10, second feature) can be selected independently of the other. That means each clutch is activated individually. The view of the Examiner that Adams is supposed to show a conveying device in Fig. 4 (Fig. 3) where the different sections 11, 12 are driven independently of each other, cannot be justified. This patent does not anticipate the subject matter of the invention.

Claims 3, 5 to 7 and 16 are rejected as being obvious from the application by Adams in view of Kettelson et al. Adams does not show a continuous drive shaft. Such a drive shaft is disclosed in Kettelson et al. The citation of Kettelson et al however shows a conveying device with self-contained arranged rollers, the rollers being driven via a bevel gear pair arranged on a continuous drive axle. A disengagement of single bevel wheels from the rollers is not provided in this application. As already indicated Adams alone does not anticipate the subject matter of the

invention, it is neither possible, knowing Kettelson et al to come to the solution according to the invention to drive individual sections of a conveying device via a common drive independently of each other.

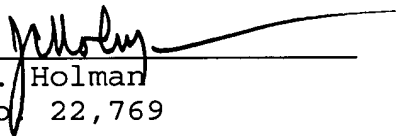
Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the present application, as they now stand, patentably distinguish over the references cited and applied by the Examiner and are, therefore, in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is in order, and such favorable action and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

However, if after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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